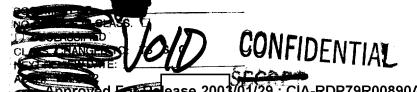
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SOVIET AVIAGON FIRE THAT

- I. In past few weeks, USSR has apparently adopted surprising new policy of actively seeking international publicity for its achievements in aircraft design.

 - B. Soviet Legation in Switzerland has indicated USSR's interest in exhibiting military planes at Geneva International Air Show (24 June-17 July).
 - C. USSR may also participate in Canada's International Air Show next year.



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- D. Finally, USSR has--for second consecutive year--pushed schedule for
 annual Aviation Day display (normally
 July) up to Acc June (19th).
- Technical press has reported comments made at Toronto Trade Fair by team of Soviet engineers, who showed particular interest in Martin Matador (pilotless bomber) and US jet engine exhibits.
 - A. Engineers stated that coming Aviation
 Day display will include "models more
 advanced than those seen before" and
 will "make US airpower look obsolete."
 - B. Suggested Canadian hosts visit Moscow
 to "compare what you see here with
 what we will show."
- following up earlier statements by local Sowiet officials that USSR might send MIG jet fighters to next week's Geneva show (where SE, France and others will display late military types) -- said USSR "seriously considering" participation.

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- B. Questioned suitability of Geneva airport for Soviet bombers: stated that,
 if unable to land, bombers might in
 any case over-fly show.
- IV. Possibility of USSR exhibition at next
 year's Canadian Air Show (June '56) first
 broached in May this year, when Soviet
 Ambassador made bid for such participation.
 - A. Press states that engineers at Toronto Fair confirmed this Soviet intent.
- V. Meanwhile, preparations for unusually early Aviation Day fly-by in Moscow have displayed same jet bombers (four-jet BISONS and twin-jet BADGERS) which over-flew city in rehearsals for abortive May

Day parade.

REHEARSALS HAVE ALSO INCLUDED Few OF

A. Not seep, so far, is turbo-prop bombers

(BEAR), of which at least nine were seen before way Day.

CONTENTIAL

Aviation Day display are the new day fighters (FARMER) and all-weather interceptors (FLASHLIGHT) likewise was before May Day.

- C. Only "new" craft seen rehearsing to date is a large helicopter.
 - Seems unlikely that blow-hard engineers at Toronto would have had something this "tame" in mind.
 - 2. Has been Soviet practice in past to include prototypes in this show, so surprise may be in store.
- VI. Following considerations could underlie apparent Kremlin search for limelight on air developments.
 - A. Present Soviet progress places USSR on at least equal footing with US in development some categories of modern fighters, bombers.

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absend, serves to underscore this progress.

- c. "Show-off" abroad (if either Geneva or Canada participation actually materializes) permits muscle-flexing before audience particularly sensitive to threat of nuclear war.
- propagandised by USSR as exact opposite--a sort of "curtain-lifting"

 greature towards international amity,
 cooperation.